KANANASKIS COUNTRY SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT

April 1989 - March 1990

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE

EASTERN SLOPES
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes progress to date on the implementation of the Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan. This is the third annual report to be completed since the plan's approval, and covers the period from April 1989 to March 1990. It identifies projects that have been undertaken or will be undertaken so that the goals of the plan may be accomplished. These projects have been documented in terms of management intent, results expected, results achieved, and activities anticipated for the coming year. Locations for activities in the planning area are given by resource management areas (RMAs) in Figure 1.

This report is intended for use by senior management within the Alberta government as well as by the general public, the ultimate users of our service.

It is hoped that annual reports will result in long-term dialogue regarding management of the area.

2.0 ECOLOGICAL, NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The requirement for management of these resources is widely based in provincial and federal legislation (e.g., Wilderness Areas, Ecological Reserves and Natural Areas Act, Alberta Provincial Parks Act, Alberta Environment Act). The management responsibility of significant ecological resources is dependent on the land administration responsibility and legislation. Alberta Forest Service (AFS) and Alberta Recreation and Parks are the major agencies involved.

2.1 INVENTORY

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

An inventory of resources will be prepared by Alberta Recreation and Parks and the Alberta Forest Service for operational programs.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Preparation of a 1:50 000 vegetation map and rare plant inventory of Opal and Kananaskis ranges in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park.	Field work was completed in 1989. Vegetation report and 1:50 000 map of park is 90% complete.
Complete draft resource plans for Peter Lougheed and Bow Valley Provincial Parks.	Preparation of issue descriptions and reports are 80% complete.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Complete vegetation report and map of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park.
2) Complete resource plans for Bow Valley and Peter Lougheed Provincial parks.
3) Undertake an amphibian breeding study and aquatic insect inventory of wetlands in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park.

2.2 PRESERVATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To establish a series of ecological reserves and natural areas to represent Alberta's alpine natural resources.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Monitor and participate in further activities on the candidate Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve.	Awaiting formal designation of candidate natural area prior to initiating management plan.

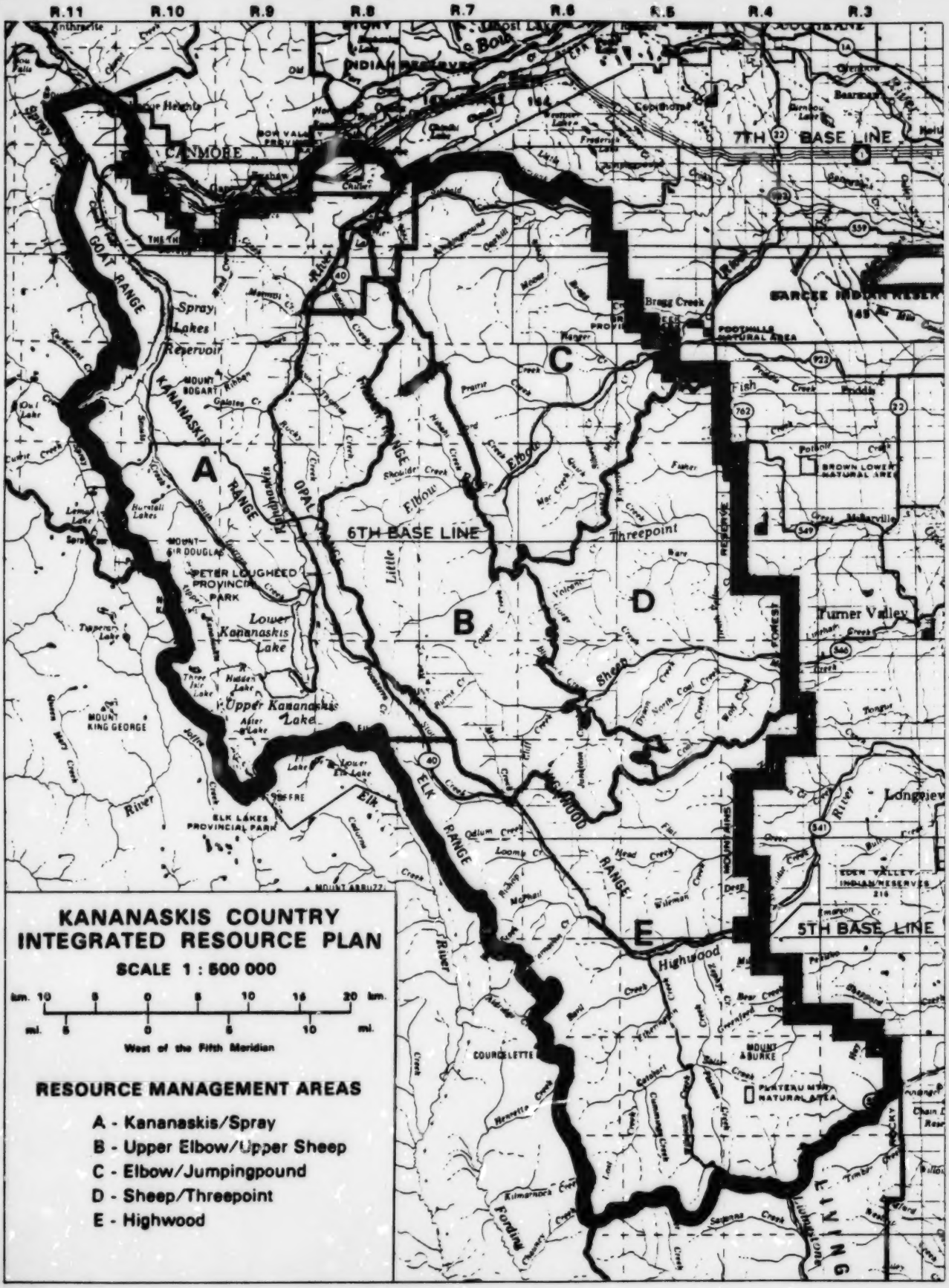

Figure 1. Resource Management Areas

Develop a research plan for Plateau Mountain Ice Cave.	The Plateau Mountain Ice Cave committee met in 1989 and discussed research activities for the ice cave.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Ecological Advisory Committee to recommend formal designation of Plateau Mountain Ecological Reserve to the Minister.
2) Development of a research plan for Plateau Mountain Ice Cave to be discussed at future meetings.

23 WEED CONTROL

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To promote an awareness of weed problems within Kananaskis Country and to provide for the effective and responsible control of weeds under the Weed Control Act of Alberta. The Improvement District 5 (ID 5) Weed Program will accomplish the following: document weed infestations on government and disposition lands, notify occupants and give notices accordingly. Restricted noxious, nuisance and rangeland weeds will be controlled. Alberta Transportation will control weeds along public roadsides throughout Kananaskis Country. ID 5 will assist Alberta Forest Service, Alberta Recreation and Parks and not-for-profit disposition holders with weed control, but will not relieve them of this function. Weed control by other disposition holders will be encouraged and facilitated by ID 5 through established contacts. Inventory of trails, backcountry areas and long distance linear dispositions (LDLDs) will be initiated by ID 5 in cooperation with Alberta Forest Service and Alberta Recreation and Parks. ID 5 Weed Program will provide training and information regarding weed inventory and control for government personnel and disposition holders as required.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Through the ID 5 Weed Program continue to control restricted, noxious, nuisance and rangeland weeds.	Alberta Forest Service (AFS) and ID 5 continued with a spraying program at Sibbald Flats and adjacent meadows. Most of the areas accessible by vehicle within Kananaskis Country were inventoried. Few new infestations were reported but many of the known infestations were inventoried and monitored. Two weeds, field scabious and ox-eye daisy, were added to the noxious weed list for ID 5. No LDLD inventory was accomplished but a small amount of trail and backcountry inventory was obtained from ranger staff and interested members of the public. Restricted, noxious, nuisance and rangeland weeds were controlled. Alberta Transportation was unable to complete weed control along roadsides in Kananaskis Country. ID 5 also encouraged and assisted other disposition holders in their efforts to obtain permits and have their weed control undertaken by industrial applicators. The Kananaskis Country Weed Control Coordination Committee continued to facilitate communication and coordination between government agencies regarding weed inventory and control. A pesticide applicator's training course was offered to employees of various agencies. In addition, orientation talks were given to seasonal rangers and the AFS student fire crew. A public information leaflet was prepared for distribution in 1990 and signs were produced to alert the public and to identify the program.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Implement the ID 5 Weed Program.
2) Undertake seasonal training of staff from a variety of agencies and public awareness will be of greater concern.
3) Update the Pesticide Applicators Manual and develop various information packages.
4) Continue monitoring and control activities on Sibbald Flats and adjacent meadows for control of field scabious.

3.0 FISHERIES

The fisheries resource area is managed to support a variety of recreational opportunities by doing the following:

a) maintaining or increasing natural fish populations;
b) establishing new populations in suitable areas; and
c) protecting or enhancing habitat.

The resource is managed by the Alberta Fish and Wildlife Division.

3.1 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To establish an optimal level and diversity of recreational angling opportunities. Efforts will be directed toward completing inventories on streams and lakes. Inventories will be undertaken to obtain information on populations, identify key habitat sites (spawning, rearing and overwintering areas) and collect water quality information.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Evaluate results of new sportfishing regulations.	Two sections on Canyon Creek were electrofished to obtain baseline data. Results under analysis.
Evaluate cutthroat trout plants in four streams and Hogarth Lakes.	Evaluations conducted on McPhail, Odlum, Loomis and Bishop creeks. Fish survived, but no evidence of reproduction was found in fish in McPhail or Odlum creeks. Hogarth Lake was not examined; however, it's evaluation has been rescheduled for next year.
Conduct creel survey on Lower Kananaskis Lake to evaluate stocking.	Creel survey was cancelled because Lower Kananaskis Lakes were not stocked as a consequence of disease problems in hatchery fish.
Evaluate lake trout plants in Spray Lakes Reservoir.	Lake trout were collected and the report is presently being finalized.
Evaluate introduction of Mysis relicta into Spray Lakes Reservoir.	Examination of fish food habits revealed that Mysis have become established and are now being used by lake trout, mountain whitefish and cisco.
Evaluate Elbow Lake nutrient enrichment project.	Brook trout were collected and data evaluation is currently underway.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Evaluate bull trout in Storm Creek to compare with data from 1980.
2) Evaluate brook trout populations in selected beaver ponds stocked in 1988.
3) Complete the report on the 1987 creel survey on Allen Bill Pond.
4) Evaluate the bull trout spawning run in Smith Dorrien Creek.
5) Complete a report on evaluation of the Spray Lakes stocking program.
6) Conduct a creel survey on Bear Pond to evaluate the arctic grayling fishery.
7) Evaluate the population of brown trout stocked in Barrier Lake in 1985.
8) Complete a report on the Elbow Lake nutrient enrichment project.

3.2 FISHERIES HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To increase fish populations and recreational angling opportunities. Effort will be placed on identification, development and implementation of projects through Buck for Wildlife funding and through government and/or industrial projects.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Undertake annual inspection and maintenance of control structures.	Annual inspections were conducted, with no special repair work identified.
Complete negotiations for repair of Bear Pond water control structure.	Plans for repair of the Bear Pond water control structure have been developed by Alberta Environment. Project delivery is planned for 1990/91 pending the availability of funds.
Identify enhancement projects: Complete reclamation at Buller Lake.	Final site reclamation and seeding was completed.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue annual inspections and maintenance of fish pond water control structures.
2) Undertake new fisheries habitat enhancement projects as identified in the planning area.
3) Provide partial funding for repair of the Bear Pond outlet structure.

3.3 HIGH MOUNTAIN LAKES PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide a quality backcountry fishing experience. Efforts will be directed toward identifying new lakes for expanding opportunities and maintaining undeveloped access.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue creel surveys on lakes.	Creel data gathered in the fall of 1989 are being summarized and analyzed along with data collected since 1982.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Investigate the potential for developing special fisheries at Chester, Rawson, Rummel and Watridge lakes.
2) Evaluate cutthroat trout in Rawson Lake to determine reproductive success.
3) Evaluate cutthroat trout planted in Hogarth and Memorial lakes.
4) Complete the High Mountain Lakes creel survey report.
5) Continue collecting creel survey data from High Mountain Lakes.

3.4 TROUT STOCKING PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide sportfishing opportunities in areas where trout do not occur naturally or are not maintained through natural reproduction. Some species, such as lake or cutthroat trout, will be introduced into new areas to extend the range of these species as self-sustaining populations.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue stocking program on various lakes and beaver ponds.	No trout stocking occurred in the planning area due to disease problems in hatchery fish.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Transfer cutthroat trout from Picklejar Lake #2 to Smuts Lakes.
2) Resume the stocking program on various lakes and beaver ponds as permitted by fish availability from the hatcheries.

3.5 FISHERIES HABITAT PROTECTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To minimize effect of land use activities on the fish habitat and populations of the planning area. This is accomplished by involvement in the departmental and interdepartmental planning and referral systems, through which fish habitat protection and migration conditions are placed on land and water use dispositions. To investigate environmental emergencies.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Review land use and water resource referrals and planning activities for potential impacts or need for impact assessment.	Land use and water resource referrals and planning activities were reviewed. Major emphasis was placed on recreational developments within the planning area.
Provide direction for preventing or minimizing impacts on fisheries resources and habitats from land uses and development.	Public concerns with land use impacts on fisheries were reviewed and recommendations were made to AFS (e.g., Quirk Creek).

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue involvement in land use and water resource referrals and land use planning activities.

4.0 INTERPRETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Alberta Recreation and Parks, Alberta Fish and Wildlife and the Alberta Forest Service provide the public with information regarding the natural and cultural resources found in Kananaskis Country.

4.1 INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION SERVICES

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

The Interpretation and Education section of the Operations Branch of Kananaskis Country, Alberta Recreation and Parks, is responsible for the lead role in interpretive services, information/orientation services and environmental education services within Kananaskis Country. The AFS also has a subordinate role in interpretation and education services in Kananaskis Country.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Resource Management Education:	
Maintain existing level of visitor services at Kananaskis Forest Experimental Station (KFES).	Visitor services were provided to approximately 6000 visitors from the general public, tour groups and schools.
Operate and maintain Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest. Develop resource kits for school teachers as teaching aids.	Approximately 4000 people visited the demonstration forest, including the general public, tour groups, forestry tours and schools. Resource materials were developed for school use and workshops were conducted.
Interpretive Services:	
Provide personal interpretive services for the natural and cultural history of Kananaskis Country and related management concerns.	Over 84 226 visitors participated in interpretive services during 1989.
	Geological Survey of Canada completed a geological map and brochure of Peter Lougheed Provincial Park for distribution in 1990.
	Several sites (Sheep River Wildlife Sanctuary, Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and Bow Valley Provincial Park) were included in provincial wildlife viewing guide.

Information/Orientation Services:

Provide the public with information regarding the recreational opportunities and facilities, and management and safety concerns.	Over 293 933 visitors were contacted personally by the information staff in this program area in 1989.

Environmental Education Services:

Provide environmental education services to teachers and group leaders.	Over 386 teachers and group leaders participated in environmental education workshops, ultimately affecting over 21 100 children.
Provide direct instruction to children at schools and campgrounds.	Over 2700 children participated in environmental education programs in Kananaskis Country in 1989.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) KFES - maintain or increase level of visitor services at the Colonel's Cabin/Forest Management Interpretive Trail.
2) Maintain or increase level of visitor services and provide additional opportunities for school use.
3) Continue the operation and maintenance of Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest. Resource kits will be developed for school teachers as a teaching aid.
4) Continue services dealing with interpretation, information/orientation, environmental education, and resource management education.

5.0 RANGE RESOURCES

The rangeland resource on the forest reserve in Kananaskis Country is divided into 17 grazing allotments. The AFS is responsible for the management of the forage resource through the development of range management plans for each allotment and for the allocation of livestock. A grazing disposition exists in Bow Valley Provincial Park. Kananaskis Country staff are responsible for the management of the forage resource in that provincial park through a range management plan.

5.1 LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To manage domestic livestock to achieve uniform forage use, maintain healthy range conditions and intensify range management practices. The rangeland resource on the Forest Reserve in Kananaskis Country is divided into 17 grazing allotments. At present there are 71 permittees.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Update the grazing plan for Bow Valley Provincial Park.	Conditions of the plan were reviewed with Alberta Recreation and Parks. The grazing plan for Bow Valley Provincial Park was completed. The grazing disposition was amended to include carrying capacities outlined in the range management plan.
Continue monitoring range condition and management practices.	71 permits were issued for a total of 20 675 animal unit months (AUMs). Each area was inspected and reviewed with permittees.
Approve range management plans.	Plans for Highwood, South Sheep, North Sheep, Sullivan Flat, South Sullivan, Willow Creek and Cataract were finalized. Plans for Elbow, McLean Creek and Fish Creek are being revised. Range inventory was conducted on Elbow horse pasture. Pekisko and Sheppard-Stimson inventories were delayed due to higher priority commitments in the Castle IRP area.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Finalize plans for Elbow, McLean Creek and Fish Creek allotments as well as Elbow horse pasture.
2) Monitor and assess range conditions and management practices.
3) Initiate monitoring program of forage production and wildlife/cattle interaction in Highwood area in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Division (F&W).
4) Initiate a stream riparian area monitoring program on Ware Creek.
5) Assist Alberta Recreation and Parks with the Bow Valley Provincial Park grazing plan concerning forage data collection and annual inspections.

5.2 STOCKING LEVELS

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Maintain the 1977 stocking levels while ensuring a good forage land base.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Monitor stocking rates and assess range condition.	Mid-season and annual inspections carried out on all range allotments.
Continue maintenance program.	332 ha of existing improvements were rebroken in preparation for seeding.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Monitor stocking rates and assess range condition.
2) Continue maintenance program on existing improvements based on approved budget allocations. This will include continued breaking and seeding of existing sites.

6.0 RECREATION AND TOURISM

Government agencies and private organizations are involved in designing and developing recreation/tourism facilities. Although major funding has ended for the 1988 Winter Olympics developments and Kananaskis Village, minor developments and upgrading will occur. Alberta Recreation and Parks is responsible for managing recreation facilities and designated trails along with associated commercial recreation. Alberta Tourism is responsible for providing business incentives and advice. The AFS is active in backcountry management and has the mandate for managing commercial recreation activities such as trail riding in the Green Area.

6.1 IMPACT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To manage recreation impacts on backcountry campgrounds and random use sites, and at developed, designated recreation facilities throughout Kananaskis Country.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue ongoing monitoring, site work and revegetation and make efforts to inform visitors about low impact hiking and camping. Continue backcountry management efforts.	AFS conducted over 150 backcountry patrols, documented over 70 new random campsites and completed cleanup inspections of hunting camps. Trail reclamation work in the Junction Creek area was completed and an impact assessment of Picklejar Lakes area was done.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Complete impact assessment and recommendation for Picklejar Lakes. Conduct a backcountry impact assessment of Evans-Thomas Creek.
2) Continue ongoing monitoring, site work, revegetation and efforts to inform visitors about low impact hiking and camping.
3) Continue backcountry management efforts. Increase user contact and education.

6.2 PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENTS AND OPERATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To develop recreation and tourism facilities that fit the theme of Kananaskis Country, and provide for private sector opportunities.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Review and possibly expand the commercial trail riding (CTR) base camp facilities in RMA A.	Some expansion was done in the form of corrals and shelters. Trails also expanded by operators applying for CTR to the south.
Issuance of CTR permits by AFS.	Permits were issued.
Monitor development of Tim Horton facilities at Barrier Lake.	Development is in the construction phase.
Issue guiding/instructing permits through Kananaskis Country for commercial activities within park or recreation areas.	Permits were issued for commercial activities including, skiing, hiking, climbing, biking, fishing, snowmobiling, rafting, trail rides and first aid courses. Review and referrals occurred regarding private recreation developments proposed for various locations.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Review the following developments:
   - Development at Spray Lakes;
   - Tipi Village development (NE 12-23-9-W5); and
   - Rudy Schmidt spa development and guest house in South Spray Lakes area.
2) Monitor and continue to issue commercial guiding and outfitting permits for activities in Kananaskis Central District.
3) Continue to review and refer private recreation development proposals as required.

6.3 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To develop standard Kananaskis Country recreational facilities and provide recreation opportunities for which there is a demonstrated demand. These will all meet acceptable standards of environmental and land use impacts and conflicts.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Develop hiking trails to Rawson Lake (RMA A).	Trail completed.
Complete Moose Ridge and Ings Mine day use areas (RMA C).	Trail not completed because of budget cuts.
Develop Sandy McNabb trail head and overflow campground (RMA D).	This trail was not developed because of budget cuts.
Complete the plan for Cataract Creek off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails (RMA E).	The plan was completed. No site work has been initiated at present. Effect of the public activities on numerous backcountry sites and lakes was assessed. Plans for a trail link between Burstall Lake and Mt. Shark Trails were done. Commercial hiking using goats as pack animals was carried out in Elbow district. Elbow River Launch day use site was started in 1989 and will be completed in 1990. Upgrading of selected trails occurred throughout Kananaskis Country.
Prepare plan for Bear Pond parking lot.	Plan approved.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue with incomplete impact assessments and plan proposals.
2) Develop proposals for expansion of day use facilities:
   - Extended parking at Galatea Trailhead.
   - Facilities (access to Kananaskis River) around Barrier.
3) Extend OHV trails at Cataract Creek and West Bragg.
4) Assess need for further OHV trails at Sibbald.

5) Assess the need for hiking and mountain bike trail expansion in Kananaskis Country.
6) Review increase in CTR activities and initiation of commercial hiking using llamas as pack animals. Implement inquiries on commercial mountain bike operations and commercial use of horse and wagons.
7) RMA A - Kovach Pond - install clay liner.
RMA C - Complete Elbow River Launch development.
RMA E - Coordinate repair of Bear Pond Dam project; construct Bear Pond parking lot.

6.4 PUBLIC INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide information on recreation and tourism opportunities.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Provide personal contacts at the travel information centres and distribute brochures.	Brochures for hiking, skiing, safety, etc., were provided. Eight information centres at Barrier Lake, Gooseberry, Bow Valley, Peter Lougheed, Elbow Ranger Station, Canmore, Bow-Crow Forest Headquarters, and Calgary offices of Kananaskis Country were the major sites that distributed information and provided for personal contact.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Provide personal contacts at the travel information centres and distribute brochures.

6.5 USER SAFETY

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To continue the training and upgrading of Kananaskis Country staff with all aspects of the public safety program.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue training programs on public safety.	Training programs on public safety continued.
Computerize avalanche activity records and complete a draft of the Backcountry Avalanche Atlas.	Some records have been computerized but the atlas is incomplete because resources have been allocated to higher priority items.
Provide training of Kananaskis Country staff for high angle technical rescues (summer and winter).	Responded to 361 emergency situations involving lost/overdue persons, motor vehicles/OHVs, skiing and various other types of accidents.
Provide helicopter flight rescue system training for Kananaskis Country ranger staff.	A high priority, specialty rescue system, which eliminates extended evacuation times, was in place.
Provide first aid training program for Kananaskis Country staff.	An ongoing program was provided to all staff regarding on-the-job safety, and how to help with public safety.
Operate a backcountry snow stability awareness program.	An ongoing program to inform the public about problems and hazards associated with winter backcountry travel was continued.
Operate an avalanche control program.	An ongoing program to eliminate hazardous situations for all public travel along highways in Kananaskis Country was continued.
Operate a water rescue program for Kananaskis Country rangers.	An ongoing program to increase both awareness of water hazards and commitment to water safety was continued.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Ensure that, as a result of the need to increase the skill levels of staff, the training programs on public safety will be ongoing commitments to safety for Kananaskis Country Response Team members.

6.6 VISITOR STATISTICS

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To determine the numbers of visitors (overnight and day only) using each facility and management areas.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED		
	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90
Continue the ongoing counts at visitor facilities.			
Campers	444 487	442 172	443 918
Days Users	253 373	N/A	1 490 610
Day Use Visits	N/A	4 737 445	3 621 198

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

Continue the ongoing counts at visitor facilities.

7.0 RESEARCH

Two universities maintain research field stations (Kananaskis Centre for Environmental Research and R.B. Miller Research Station) which attract numerous researchers from Alberta and other provinces/countries. In addition, the Geological Survey of Canada is very active in this area. Numerous conference groups use Kananaskis Country for field trips. Research permit systems are required by legislation through Alberta Fish and Wildlife, Alberta Recreation and Parks, Alberta Culture and Multiculturalism and the AFS. Certain federal agencies also maintain permit systems.

7.1 ENCOURAGEMENT OF RESEARCH

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To facilitate and encourage university and government research.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Review major literature sources.	A review was conducted. The data base is being updated on an ongoing basis.
	Thirteen Alberta Recreation and Parks Research and Collection Permits were granted to new or continuing researchers.
Establish, through AFS, permanent sample plots.	Two permanent sample plots were established in the Kananaskis River Valley.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue the Kananaskis Country Bibliography update and provide printouts as requested.
2) Continue to issue Research and Collection Permits as they are approved.
3) Monitor permanent sample plots.

8.0 TIMBER RESOURCES

Maintenance of the forest land base and annual allowable cut of the planning area are the responsibility of the AFS. This responsibility also includes forest protection (against fire, insects and disease), reforestation and the administration of public recreational land use throughout the forested portions of the planning area.

8.1 HARVESTING

MANAGEMENT INTENT

Logging activity through forest management plans will be integrated with other land use activities such as recreational developments, watershed management, range improvements or fish and wildlife habitat improvements.
Landscape logging and other aesthetic harvesting practices will be employed.
Harvesting will be done in a manner that will have minimal impact on forage production or livestock and wildlife management.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue timber quota harvest operations.	Annual operating plans submitted and approved for coniferous timber licence (CTL) B07-0021 and B07-0004 (Cox Hill). Timber inventory completed and compiled in cut plan area (CPA) 2.0 -B07-Q3 (Homestead Area) and licence ready to be issued. Licence will be B7-L6. Fuelwood area set up in Sibbald-Bateman Creek area for removal of same. Area to last approximately five years. 893 forest product permits (FPPs) sold for fuelwood. Four local timber permits (LTPs) issued.
Complete cruising and compilation of two pending post and post sales (competitive bid) in Sullivan Miscellaneous Timber Use (MTU) area.	Cruising and cruise reports completed. Awaiting commercial timber permit (CTP) issuance.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Commence logging in B2-L21. It will take two years to complete this licence.
2) Commence harvesting operations in B07000 (Cox Hill) to be completed in the 1990/91 season and is estimated to contain a volume of 42 000 m^3 (Spray Lake Sawmills).
3) Submit for approval annual operating plan for license B7-L6. Commence harvesting operations in fall 1990 to remove 12 000 m^3 of wood. B7-L6 estimated to contain a volume of 340 763 m^3 .
4) Issue local timber permits. Forest product permits to continue as demand warrants.
5) Issue a CTP in the Sullivan Creek MTU Area.

8.2 PROTECTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To protect the forest from fire, insects and disease.

RESULTS EXPECTED

Continue forest fire prevention, detection, presuppression and suppression program.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

	Cause	Area(ha)	
DB1-01-89	Man	0.1	Trailer Fire
B1R-01-89	Man	1.0	Smoking
B1R-02-89	Man	0.1	Piles
B1R-03-89	Man	0.1	Stubble
B1R-04-89	Man	20.0	Railroad exhaust
DB2-01-89	Man	2.0	Grass
DB2-02-89	Man	1.0	Playing - Matches
DB2-03-89	Man	0.1	Campfire
DB2-04-89	Man	0.1	Campfire
DB2-05-89	LTG	0.1	
DB2-06-89	LTG	0.1	
DB2-07-89	LTG	0.1	
BMD-02-89	LTG	0.1	

TOTAL = 24.9 hectares
13 fires (4 lightning, 9 man-caused).
Helipad construction completed on Mount Kidd.

Continue insect and disease monitoring program.	Thirty pheromone baits placed at 12 sites. Monitoring completed September 1989. Fifteen trees were removed. No infestations indicated. Thinning being done on hail-damaged lodgepole pine stand aged 10 - 15 years in Twp: 24 Rge: 6 W5M, under the Public Lands Development Program.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Adhere to a comprehensive fire management plan.
2) Continue the monitoring program for mountain pine beetle. Six pheromone baits to be located at three sites.

8.3 REFORESTATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Reforestation of all lands that are in the sustained yield timber land base in accordance with established reforestation/forest management policies.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Reforestation: Complete scarification on CTL B7-L25 (West Bragg).	Free to grow: 34.9 ha Regeneration surveys: 87.7 ha carried out by industry (Spray Lake Sawmills) Planting: Nil Aerial seeding: 179.0 ha Scarification: 13.9 ha
Initiate and complete inventory and assessment of non-merchantable stands within B7 forest management unit for possible stand conversion under the Public Lands Development Program.	Inventory completed on non-merchantable stands - results awaiting compilation and assessments. Scarification completed in B2-L5.
Implement intensive forest management.	Superior cone collection project to enhance genetically improved seed completed. Total of 10 kg of seed collected through joint effort by AFS and Spray Lake Sawmills.
Continue evaluation of ten year (and older) reforestation blocks for stand improvement through thinning operations.	Stand thinning and tending completed on 92.9 ha (Jumping Pound area). Aerial fertilization completed on 92.9 ha (Jumpingpound area).

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Free to grow survey: 42.5 ha
2) Regeneration survey: 257.1 ha
3) Planting: Nil
4) Aerial seeding: 4.0 ha
5) Scarification: Nil
6) Continue evaluation of ten year and older reforested blocks for stand improvement through thinning operations.
7) Under the Public Lands Development Program funds, monitor for more areas that require stand thinning or tending on reforested areas.

9.0 TRANSPORTATION

Alberta Transportation and Utilities is responsible for the development and maintenance of roads in Kananaskis Country. Some assistance regarding avalanche control is provided by Recreation and Parks.

9.1 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Roads will be maintained to minimize environmental damage.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Implement a method to contain contaminated runoff from salt in the maintenance yard, as funding becomes available.	Some improvements were undertaken in the maintenance yard to contain the leaching from the sand-salt stockpiles.
Create berms around the equipment/maintenance yard, and plant vegetation for screening purposes.	Small berms were constructed to deflect drainage to a confined area. Landscaping incomplete.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Complete landscaping around equipment/maintenance yard for screening purposes.
2) Continue to have all Alberta Transportation field personnel undertake necessary measures to reduce salt usage on roadways.

9.2 SAFETY

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Roads will be maintained to ensure a high level of public safety.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue monitoring and control of avalanche hazard for areas that threaten public roadways (Alberta Recreation and Parks assisted by Alberta Transportation and Utilities).	Monitoring and control of avalanche hazards continued and is ongoing. Helicopter bombing on the avalanche terrain resulted in three separate incidents of debris blocking the road in the area of Canmore Hills. Other control work continued along the Smith Dorrien and Fortress Ski Area Access Road.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue to monitor traffic volumes on highways to ensure traffic safety for motorists is maintained.
2) Review necessity of gate to restrict public access on Canmore Hill during avalanche hazard cycles.
3) Continue to monitor and control avalanche hazards that threaten public roadways.

10.0 WATER RESOURCES

Water resources management is the responsibility of Alberta Environment, and all water use is regulated by the department. Land use activities are monitored and managed by the AFS and Alberta Recreation and Parks to ensure the integrity of the watershed is maintained. Activities causing soil erosion are of principle concern.

10.1 FLOW FORECASTING AND FLOOD PREVENTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To prevent ground erosion and flooding of facilities, and reduce sedimentation of streams.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Line Kovach Pond to reduce leakage.	Project postponed until next year.

Repair Bear Pond dam.	Funding under Alberta Water Management and Erosion Control Program secured. Repairs yet to be done.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Complete repairs for Bear Pond Dam.
2) Secure funding to line Kovach Pond to reduce leakage.

10.2 POINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Maintenance of water quality. Monitor point source sedimentation in McLean Creek OHV area.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue monitoring selected sites.	Monitored one site in each of Fish Creek, Fisher Creek, Sylvester Creek and McLean Creek.
Review timber harvest operating plans as required.	Timber harvest operating plans were reviewed prior to operations being undertaken. On-site conditions were applied as required.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Evaluate four new sites in McLean Creek Forest Land Use Zone (FLUZ).

10.3 RECLAMATION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Maintenance of water quality. Minimize upland soil erosion and stream sedimentation. Reclamation should ensure public safety and enhance the aesthetics of the area.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Complete cleanup of Marmot Basin watershed study site.	Reclamation completed under Alberta Heritage Savings and Trust Fund (AHSTF) Program.
Continue feasibility study of Gypsum mine site in Peter Lougheed Provincial Park.	Further assessment was completed and an application request was submitted for reclamation by Alberta Environment. Reclamation of several other old gravel pits or disturbed areas has also been requested.
Reclaim gravel pits and old roads.	Alberta Environment initiated reclamation at the following: Bow Valley Park - 25% complete; Walker Pit - 100% complete; and Smith Dorrien Pit - 70% complete.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Assist in the reclamation and repair of Bear Pond Dam. NW 36 - Twp: 15 Rge: 4 - W5M. Project approved jointly with Alberta Environment, Alberta Transportation and Utilities, and AHSTF.
2) Complete reclamation of Bow Valley Park and Smith Dorrien Pit.

10.4 WATER YIELD MODELLING

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

Maintenance or improvement of water quality, quantity and flow regime.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Put the WRENSS water yield simulation model on the Forest Land Use Geographic Information System (GIS) application and simulate all harvest operations to ensure water yield is maintained or increased.	GIS project on hold because of budget and staff cuts.

ANTICIPATE ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

None anticipated.

11.0 LAND USE

Land use is a common term for all activities that relate to the administration/management of resource uses of the land. These activities are the responsibility of the AFS and Public Lands Division for land administered by Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. Kananaskis Country Division is responsible for land administered by Alberta Recreation and Parks. ID 5 is responsible for issuing development permits and zoning.

11.1 REFERRALS

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To ensure that land use activities are integrated and conform with the management intent of Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue review and referral of land use disposition applications.	10 Geophysical 2 Mineral Surface Lease 2 License of Occupation 7 Miscellaneous Lease 1 Recreation Lease 4 Easement 1 Herbicide 27 Total Referrals

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue review and referrals of land use disposition applications.

12.0 WILDLIFE

Wildlife is managed in this plan to provide a variety of recreational and commercial opportunities, and to set future demands on viable and diverse wildlife populations for a full range of species, including the following:

a) ungulates,
b) furbearers, and
c) scarce species (e.g., fisher).

Wildlife resources are managed by the Fish and Wildlife Division, Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife. However, in provincial parks, Fish and Wildlife Division consults with Kananaskis Country Operations Branch.

12.1 WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To provide input to government referral systems dealing with applications for use of public lands in the planning area, and to provide representation to local planning activities that deal with matters of land use control. Input will be directed toward protection of fish and wildlife resources and habitat, and will indicate mitigative actions required.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Review land use applications and commercial/industrial development plans, and identify impacts.	Applications and plans were reviewed (e.g., developments in Spray Lakes and Kananaskis area); impacts or need for impact assessment were identified.
Provide direction for preventing or minimizing impacts on wildlife resources and habitats from land uses and development.	Operating conditions or other mitigation measures for land uses and developments (e.g., CTR Operations, logging programs) commented on and provided to referral agency (i.e., AFS and Kananaskis Country).
	Public concerns with land uses were reviewed and recommendations to address concerns provided to AFS (e.g., cattle distribution and overgrazing of wildlife winter ranges in Highwood).
Review range management and recreational development plans.	Plans were reviewed and recommendations provided to referral agency where potential impacts were identified.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Continue involvement in land use referral system and land use planning activities.

12.2 WILDLIFE HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To develop and implement enhancement projects that will help to increase the carrying capacity of wildlife habitat. Emphasis will be given to enhancing ungulate winter ranges.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Complete brush pile burning at Wind Valley and Mt. Allan.	About 100 piles burnt in July at Mount Allan. Another 100+ remain to be burned.
	Burning not completed due to weather conditions. Wind Valley piles were assessed in February of 1990 and their burning is anticipated for the fall of 1990.
Complete Mist Creek prescribed burn.	Burning not undertaken because of unfavourable site conditions. Mist Creek plan was rewritten and a smaller area identified for burning.
Identify or review future enhancement projects.	Sheep River sites identified for burning.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/91):

1) Complete brush pile burning in Wind Valley.
2) Complete Mist Creek prescribed burn to enhance elk range.
3) Identify or review future enhancement projects.
4) Complete Sheep River prescribed burn to enhance sheep habitat.

12.3 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

MANAGEMENT INTENT:

To manage populations of all wildlife species indigenous to the area, at levels in harmony with long-term carrying capacity of the habitat. Management objectives include providing opportunities for use of these wildlife populations by the public, in a manner that does not jeopardize the natural well-being, abundance and distribution of these wildlife resources.

RESULTS EXPECTED	RESULTS ACHIEVED
Continue monitoring Mt. Allan bighorn sheep populations.	Two surveys conducted; no significant changes in sheep numbers.
Continue monitoring Highwood Valley elk populations.	Surveys conducted; elk numbers continue below long-term objectives.
Change hunting regulations to permit increased elk numbers.	Adjustments to recommended regulations include male elk authorizations and establishment of corridor sanctuary.
Provide assistance to University of Calgary for the Sheep River bighorn sheep study.	Assisted with tagging and sampling of blood and tissues.
Conduct Bow Corridor elk study.	Collared eight elk and monitored movements; documented 25% mortality; demonstrated significance of Canmore wintering areas from dispersal of elk to summer ranges as far as Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and South Ghost River. In addition, wolf kill sites were monitored and results provided to Banff National Park wolf study team.
Conduct bighorn sheep surveys on winter ranges.	Surveys completed; report written; no significant change in sheep numbers.
Identify wildlife viewing sites for provincial guide book.	Sites identified and incorporated into guide book.

ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES (1990/01):

1) Continue monitoring of Highwood elk numbers.
2) Continue assistance to University of Calgary bighorn sheep study in the Sheep River area.
3) Monitor movement of elk collared in Bow Corridor.
4) Monitor effectiveness of Highwood Road Corridor Sanctuary after it is established.
5) Monitor use and misuse of wildlife viewing sites promoted through viewing guide.
6) Identify additional wildlife viewing sites.
7) Assist Banff National Park study team with wolf study, where it involves wolves utilizing Kananaskis Country.

13.0 SUMMARY

The foregoing provides an account of what has been accomplished in the Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Planning Area between April 1989 and March 1990. The activities reported in this document result from the recommendations of the Kananaskis Country Sub-Regional Integrated Resource Plan approved March 4, 1986.

Implementation of the plan is progressing essentially on schedule. Some projects, as mentioned in the report, have been deferred to a later date because of budget constraints.

If you have any comments relating to this report, please direct them to the following:

Regional Resource Coordinator
Regional Coordination Services
Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife
Provincial Building, 1st Floor
4919 - 51 Street
P.O. Box 1598
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The courier address to be used to forward comments from provincial government departments is as follows:

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